

Town of Narragansett Economic Development Plan – Progress Report | 4 Year Plan

Objective #1: Develop Master Plans for 3 Economic Centers

Year 1	Progress
Galilee: Continue to review adverse regulations (state/fed); build on Dept. of Commerce's Economic Development Assessment	<i>In Progress</i> ; Exploring Grant Opportunity through EDA; Met with DEM to discuss Grant on 4/3/12
Pier: A focused, continuous conversation with Gilbane and community leaders regarding use of property	<i>In Progress</i> ; Meeting held on 12/08/11 w/Bob Gagliardi (Gilbane) & Pi Patel (Village Inn) on opportunities for property; Continued conversations in 2012 regarding property usage.
North End: Review and implement existing comprehensive development plan re: traffic, economy, landscaping	<i>In Progress</i> ; Planning Board going through Bonnet Shores Plan to address residential & commercial zoning; Town submitted to state TIP for traffic improvements near beach
Overall: Town Hire an economic development/marketing director	<i>Completed</i>

Years 2 to 3	Progress
Galilee: DEM & RIEDC feasibility study, i.e., continued and expanded use (start with 10 year old plan)	
Pier: Develop village zoning to address geography around the Pier and finish the bike path	
Pier: Engage Gilbane to create a public space within Pier Village Community Area	
Overall town: Conduct an impact analysis of the town's rules and regulations on the business community; streamline town rules and regulations to make them more "friendly" to economic development without compromising due diligence and transparency; and craft a business development plan.	
Overall town: Work with RIPTA to determine if running buses after hours is feasible	
Study the feasibility of locating a transit hub at Pier or Salt Pond...large buses go there and small buses fan out through town	
North End master plan: URI Bay Campus and industrial parks as center for ocean technology, map development sites, implement beautification of Boston Neck Road, conduct feasibility study for the use of alternative energy, develop industrial park signage, review zoning along route 1A (Frontage Rd)	

Objective #2: Initiate actions to solve the renter/student problems

Year 1	Progress
Regarding students, landlords – make existing ordinances transparent and enforce them from the top down	Council considered and approved noise ordinance (8/15/11); Council considered increasing fines for responsible parties for noise & disturbance (12/11); Continue to enforce.
Conduct a formal orientation with landlords and real estate agents to inform them of their obligations under the town ordinances	Meeting date TBD – prior to Fall 2012
Research and adopt best practices from other places	<i>Ongoing</i>
Request that URI develop an orientation for off campus students to learn about the town ordinances in its off-campus student orientation (already in the works by URI) recommend it be conducted face-to-face with students and involve officials from the town; forward existing town ordinances to URI	Meeting date TBD – prior to Fall 2012
Regarding renters and landlords, consider new ordinances to fill essential gaps (what’s missing after enforcing what is on the books, including significantly increasing penalties for repeat offenders to the maximum allowed by state law)	Council considered and approved noise ordinance (8/15/11); Council considered increasing fines for responsible parties for noise & disturbance (12/11)
Form a working group composed of the town manager, police chief and town council representatives to address the problems of “town and gown” relations	Working group under chairmanship of Steve Glazer met and recommended a number of possible solutions to address rental issues; continue the conversations as needed to address new problems.

Objective #3: Mount a town-wide marketing plan

Year 1	Progress
Launch marketing plan to brand the town as a cool place to live with elements such as ‘buy local,’ attract young, upwardly mobile...raise kids here, put kids in our schools, and use standard logo for ads and signage	<i>In progress</i> ; Economic Development Committee to form sub-committee to begin Town-wide marketing campaign. Committee to identify a unified Town message in order to put together branding.

Years 2 to 3	Progress
Galilee: Create a public awareness for fishing fleet and continued use of Galilee	

Objective #4: Develop, promote and coordinate arts, culture and recreation experiences

Year 1	Progress
Create an arts, culture and recreation advisory committee to develop a program of work	On hold – The Economic Development Committee has created an arts & culture sub-committees that will focus on developing a program of work for this area
Re-establish Narragansett Historical Society – encourage them to do oral histories of town elders	Completed

Years 2 to 3	Progress
Galilee: Develop eco-tourism itineraries including the better use of marshes (like Audubon Society)	
Complete tourist profile study re: the tourist type now and the type desired and strategies for extending the tourism season into the shoulders of spring and fall	
Conduct a feasibility study of post office use as a community center, including arts	
<p>Map of existing and new itineraries, especially those that extend the tourism season beyond summer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Historical house weekend with homes open for dinner ▪ Feature multi-cultural, diverse events such as combining the arts with the water ▪ A real estate weekend featuring home sellers ▪ Farmer's market in parking lot ▪ Coupon book of pre-paid vouchers ▪ South County Tourism to promote itineraries ▪ Integration of events (kite flying, road races, beach bonfires, etc.) ▪ Identify practicing artists in town...map them; promote presence; feature open studios ▪ Have a cooking challenge event ▪ Host "Supper in the Sand" 	

Objective #5: Undertake a town-wide beautification program

Year 1	Progress
Overall town: Foster citizen engagement: bring together diverse neighborhood organizations and residents so everyone from all the neighborhoods can talk to each other, including a focus on citizen-led physical improvements	<i>In Progress</i> ; Engagement plan in progress – consultants to help with process
Galilee: Fix and improve visual pollution including better garbage control	<i>In Progress</i> ; Public works increased additional garbage collection during peak summer months; staff evaluating recycling options
Pier: Develop beautification code and enforce ordinances for no parking in yards or off of the roads	<i>In Progress</i>

Years 2 to 3	Progress
Develop investment plans to guide capital improvements for infrastructure and key spots. Completed a comprehensive review of needed infrastructure improvements including roads, seawall, beach erosion and “big town green” and take out curve in road downtown. Identify key spots such as Narrow River/Salt pond.	
Evaluate town entrances – determine what’s required to make them “gateways”	